

Kids who are part of a quality pre-K program are more likely to graduate high school, to earn higher pay, and live more productive lives.

In looking for common ground, we should learn from the recent spending deal which showed bipartisan support for boosting early education. Let's not let tonight be a wasted opportunity to give our kids the strong start that they desire.

FEDERAL REGULATION

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call attention to recent remarks made by Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Regarding document requests submitted by the Natural Resources Committee, the Secretary gave excuses as to why it was inconvenient for her agency to comply with these requests and allow Congress to fulfill its duty in providing oversight to Federal agencies.

I serve on the Natural Resources Committee, and the document requests submitted concerned Federal regulations burdening this Nation. The Secretary noted that going through these documents was a waste of time and money for her agency.

Yet Congress is charged with keeping an agency like the Department of the Interior accountable because we are all, in turn, held accountable to the American taxpayer. We want answers to these regulation questions.

A battle is being waged in our country between an increasingly overbearing government and an increasingly burdened country of entrepreneurs. The struggle between regulation and innovation has tied the hands of many job creators.

The Federal Government must stop putting people out of business through regulation and help get our country back to work.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, instead of talking about jobs, or the economy, or the unemployed who have lost their benefits because of our inaction, we are here talking about legislation that strips women of their fundamental right to make their own medical decisions.

If H.R. 7 passes, millions of women who work for small businesses, or who will be buying insurance on the exchanges, will lose access to comprehensive health care.

H.R. 7 is a radical bill that places restrictions on how women can spend their private dollars to purchase their private insurance. It would also make

the Hyde amendment permanent, which will cause detrimental and devastating effects to all women, especially low-income women.

We must stand by women and vote "no" on H.R. 7.

THE CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE CAUCUS

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, no child in America should be forced to go to a school where they won't have a meaningful chance to learn. That is why school choice matters.

School choice is about the freedom of parents to choose the best educational environment for their child to succeed. For some, that means open enrollment. For others, that means a public charter school. Some may prefer a magnet school or a private school or even a virtual school. Others may want to home school their children.

Whatever the choice, National School Choice Week is about celebrating those choices and recognizing that applying market-based principles and technology to education can enhance student achievement and lead to better results.

That is why I am creating the Congressional School Choice Caucus, which will be dedicated to expanding educational freedom and promoting policies that increase high-quality education options for all children.

I urge my colleagues to join us and empower parents with a choice so their kids have a chance for success.

AN UNPRECEDENTED ASSAULT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today, this House will consider H.R. 7, which is an unprecedented assault on women's health care.

This law would mean that millions of American women who would like to purchase their health insurance with their own money cannot purchase comprehensive health insurance, insurance which is their legal right because this House of Representatives and, Madam Speaker, I would note, a House of Representatives, particularly on the majority side, that is dominated by men, tell them they cannot do so.

What is even more cynical, however, is that those who are promoting this and have said this know that it will not become law. It is a messaging bill.

It is intended to send a message to whom?

And just what is that message?

So while we are debating that, the House is not taking up unemployment insurance extension, which is not a messaging bill. It is heat in the home, it is keeping the lights on, it is paying

the mortgage, it is putting food on the table for the children of the people in those homes.

That is not a messaging bill. That is the work that we were sent here to do.

GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, when we needed bipartisan action to lower costs and improve health care, Congress passed the Affordable Care Act on a party-line vote.

Given the growing number of failures that have been revealed since the law's implementation began, it is time for Congress to work together to address the unworkable provisions for the good of the American people.

Fortunately, opposition to the ACA's flawed policy is moving beyond party labels. Last year, the Democratic-led Senate voted 79-20 to repeal the law's medical device tax. Since then, more and more Members of Congress recognize there are bigger problems.

Earlier in January, despite the Obama administration's vocal opposition to the efforts to boost consumer protections under the law, a veto-proof majority of Republicans and Democrats in the House voted to pass H.R. 3811, which would help secure personal information on the online exchanges.

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve bipartisan solutions.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR ABORTION ACT

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, here we go again. Instead of working with President Obama and Democrats to create jobs, economic opportunities, and fight poverty, extreme Tea Party Republicans are at it again, attacking women's health care and reproductive rights. Yes, it is another battle in the war on women.

Instead of working together to extend unemployment benefits, here we are today debating another dangerous and divisive attempt to strip away the rights of women.

Madam Speaker, Congress currently imposes unfair limitations on insurance coverage of abortion and, through the Hyde amendment, that is a fact, even though I personally think we should get rid of all these restrictions.

Yet this bill, H.R. 7, creates an unprecedented interference in the lives of women and their families by restricting coverage for women's health in private insurance plans.

It specifically attacks low-income women in the District of Columbia by permanently, mind you, permanently prohibiting the District from spending